AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What we do:
The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), within the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA),was established in 1987 to help ensure that HIV-positive uninsured and under-insured individuals have access to pharmaceutical (drug) therapies. The goal of ADAP is to make available, in an effective and timely manner to people living with HIV, drug treatments that can reliably be expected to increase the duration and quality of life. Currently, 154 drugs are available through ADAP, and there are approximately 3,500 participating pharmacies statewide where clients can have access to these drugs. Without the drugs available through ADAP, thousands of HIV-positive Californians would face rapidly deteriorating health.

Who we serve:
Individuals are eligible for ADAP if they:
- are a resident of California;
- are HIV infected;
- are 18 years of age or older;
- have an adjusted gross income below $50,000 per year;
- have a valid prescription from a licensed California physician; and
- lack private insurance that covers the medications or do not qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal.

A co-payment is required of anyone whose annual adjusted gross income is between 400 percent of federal poverty level (currently $38,280) and $50,000. Persons with an annual adjusted gross income below 400 percent of the federal poverty level receive ADAP drugs at no cost.

ADAP for persons with other prescription drug coverage:

Federal and state law requires that ADAP funds be used as the payer of last resort. ADAP's goal is to help individuals access and maintain HIV prescription drug coverage, while ensuring that ADAP is used only after all other potential payer options are exhausted.

- Medicare Part D: Beginning January 1, 2006, all Medicare eligible ADAP clients will be required to utilize the prescription drug benefits available under Medicare Part D. ADAP will be able to assist clients in meeting some of their out-of-pocket costs associated with the various levels of coverage available under Medicare Part D.
- Private Insurance: Persons eligible for private insurance coverage are required to access and utilize their prescription drug coverage benefit. ADAP is able to assist clients in meeting some of the out-of-pocket costs associated with private insurance prescription drug coverage.

- Persons who are eligible to receive insurance but are in need of premium payment assistance should be referred to the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency/Health Insurance Premium Payment (CARE/HIPP) Program or the Medi-Cal HIPP Program.

What you should know:

- AIDS drugs (antiretrovirals) delay progression of the disease and help prevent life threatening infections that HIV-positive individuals are susceptible to due to their suppressed immune systems. As a result, AIDS drugs enhance the quality of life for many HIV-positive persons and enable them to remain healthy and to work for as long as possible, thus reducing the cost of publicly-funded health care services.
- ADAP served 28,192 clients in fiscal year 2004-05 and filled over 880,000 prescriptions for these clients.
- To enroll in ADAP, HIV-positive individuals may go to any of the 239 enrollment sites located throughout California.

Helpful resources:

- To find the nearest ADAP enrollment site or pharmacy, or to find out more about the ADAP drug formulary, eligibility information, etc., please call Ramsell Corporation, ADAP pharmacy benefits management service provider, at toll-free **(888) 311-7632** or see Website http://www.ramsellcorp.com.
- For more information on OA's mission, OA programs, and other helpful resources, see Website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
  - *California AIDS Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (English/Spanish/Filipino) or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD).
  - *National AIDS Hotline* at (800) 342-AIDS (English), (800) 344-SIDA (Spanish), or 800 243-7889 (TDD).
  - For more information on Medicare Part D, see Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Website http://www.cms.medicare.org, or (800) MEDICARE.
  - For information about the Medi-Cal HIPP Program, call (866) 298-8443.
  - For information about the CARE/HIPP insurance continuation program, call OA at (916) 449-5900.